

TEXT OF GROMYKO LETTER ON EMIGRATION

L131731 MOSCOW DOMESTIC SERVICE IN RUSSIAN 1630 GMT 18 DEC 74 L

(TEXT) THE FOLLOWING LETTER BY USSR FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO WAS PRESENTED TO U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE MR KISSINGER ON 26 OCTOBER 1974:

ESTEEMED MR STATE SECRETARY: I CONSIDER IT NECESSARY TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE QUESTION PERTAINING TO THE PUBLICATION IN THE UNITED STATES OF MATERIAL KNOWN TO YOU WHICH FOCUSES UPON THE DEPARTURE FROM THE SOVIET UNION OF A CERTAIN CATEGORY OF SOVIET CITIZENS. I HAVE TO STATE FRANKLY THAT THE MENTIONED MATERIAL, INCLUDING THE CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN YOU AND SENATOR JACKSON, CREATES A DISTORTED IMPRESSION REGARDING OUR POSITION AND THE STATEMENT MADE BY US TO THE AMERICAN SIDE ON THIS QUESTION.

EXPLAINING, IN RESPONSE TO YOUR WISHES, THE TRUE STATE OF AFFAIRS, WE STRESS THAT THIS QUESTION IN ITSELF IS ENTIRELY A MATTER OF THE INTERNAL COMPETENCE OF OUR STATE. WE HAVE WARNED THAT IN THIS MATTER WE ACTED AND SHALL CONTINUE TO ACT SOLELY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LEGISLATION WE HAVE IN THIS CONNECTION.

NOTHING IS BEING SAID AT THE PRESENT TIME ABOUT THIS MATTER. AT THE SAME TIME ATTEMPTS ARE BEING MADE TO MAKE THE EXPLANATIONS WE MADE REGARDING THE PROCEDURE OF THE DEPARTURE OF SOVIET CITIZENS FROM THE SOVIET UNION APPEARS AS SOME KIND OF ASSURANCE AND ALMOST PLEDGE, AND EVEN SOME SORT OF FIGURES ARE BEING MENTIONED REGARDING THE SUPPOSED NUMBER OF SUCH CITIZENS. THERE IS TALK ABOUT THE EXPECTED INCREASE IN THE NUMBERS COMPARED WITH PAST YEARS.

WE RESOLUTELY REJECT SUCH AN INTERPRETATION. WHAT WE SAID, AND YOU MR STATE SECRETARY KNOW THIS WELL, CONCERNED ONLY THE REAL SITUATION ON THE GIVEN QUESTION.

EVEN WHEN THERE WAS DISCUSSION, IN THE WAY OF INFORMING YOU ON THE TRUE STATE OF AFFAIRS, REGARDING FIGURES, THE OPPOSITE WAS POINTED OUT, THAT IS, THE TREND TOWARD THE DECREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PERSONS WISHING TO LEAVE THE USSR TO RESIDE PERMANENTLY IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

WE CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT THAT IN VIEW OF THE FUNDAMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS MATTER THERE SHOULD BE NO VAGUENESS AT ALL IN RELATION TO THE SOVIET UNION'S POSITION.

(SIGNED) GROMYKO, USSR FOREIGN MINISTER.

(FBIS NOTE: MOSCOW TASS IN ENGLISH AT 1725 GMT CARRIES AN IDENTICAL VERSION OF THIS LETTER.)

18 DEC 1815Z JD/CMS

TASS ISSUES STATEMENT ON TRADE WITH U.S.

Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1700 GMT 18 Dec 74 L

[Text] Moscow--Here is the text of a TASS statement:

As is known, for some time now there has been a discussion in U.S. official circles, including the American Congress, of bills concerning economic and trade relations between the USSR and the United States. At present these bills have been approved separately by the House of Representatives and the Senate, after unified texts have been worked out in the House Senate Conference Committee they are to be finally endorsed by the two houses.

It was envisaged that, in accordance with the understanding in principle reached in 1972 between the USSR and the United States, discriminatory restrictions in economic and trade relations introduced in the U.S. during the "cold war" years would be removed.

However, opponents of a normalization of Soviet-American trade, and also of a general improvement of Soviet-American relations, from the outset actively began to hamper this process, striving to prevent the inauguration of mutually beneficial economic ties between the USSR and the United States, including the mutual granting of the most-favored-nation status in trade and in trade credits, or to be more precise--the removal of the discriminatory conditions applied in the United States toward the Soviet Union.

Matters have gone so far that the positive solution of these matters has been made conditional upon various reservations and demands which are nothing other than gross interference in the Soviet Union's internal affairs.

Only in this way can one describe the attempts to include in the bills provisions concerning for example, the departure of Soviet citizens for other countries, the granting of economic information of a purely domestic nature to American institutions, and so on, and, of course, only a loss of a sense of reality could give rise to the idea of creating in the United States some sort of organs for the observance of the Soviet Union's fulfillment of these requirements.

The adoption by the U.S. Congress of this sort of reservation or limiting condition would also run directly counter to the clear obligations of the parties to the 1972 trade agreement between the USSR and United States, which visualized the unconditional end to legislation which discriminates against the Soviet Union.

TASS is authorized to state that the leading circles of the Soviet Union categorically reject as inadmissible any attempts, from whomever they come, to interfere in affairs which are entirely within the internal competence of the Soviet state and do not concern anybody else. In the same circles it is considered that the complications artificially created around the questions of normalization of the trade and economic relations between the USSR and the United States do not correspond to the interests of either side. Mutually profitable cooperation and trade undoubtedly correspond with the interests of both the Soviet and the American peoples.

There is only one foundation upon which Soviet-American relations in general, and trade and economic relations in particular, can be built successfully. It is clearly set forth in the relevant Soviet-American documents, including the agreement mentioned.

This is the complete equality in the rights of the sides and noninterference in each other's internal affairs. It is on that basis, and only on that basis, that one can confidently direct affairs toward further development of the trade and economic relations between the USSR and the United States, and of the relations between them as a whole.

So far as the Soviet Union is concerned, it intends to continue to strictly adhere to that basis.

GROMYKO LETTER TO KISSINGER ON SOVIET EMIGRATION, U.S. TRADE

Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1630 GMT 18 Dec 74 L

[Text] The following letter by USSR Foreign Minister Gromyko was presented to U.S. Secretary of State Mr Kissinger on 26 October 1974.

Esteemed Mr State Secretary, I consider it necessary to draw your attention to the question pertaining to the publication in the United States of material known to you which touches upon the departure from the Soviet Union of a certain category of Soviet citizens.

I have to state frankly that the mentioned material, including the correspondence between you and Senator Jackson create a distorted impression regarding our position and the statement made by us to the American side on this question.

Explaining, in response to your wishes, the true state of affairs, we stress that this question in itself is entirely a matter of the internal competence of our state. We have warned that in this matter we acted and shall continue to act solely in accordance with the legislation we have in this connection.

Nothing is being said, at the present time, about this matter. At the same time attempts are being made to make the explanations we made regarding the procedure of the departure of Soviet citizens from the Soviet Union appear as some kind of assurance and almost pledge, and even some sort of figures are being mentioned regarding the supposed number of such citizens. There is talk about the expected increase in the numbers compared with past years.

We resolutely reject such an interpretation. What we said, and you Mr State Secretary know this well, concerned only the real situation on the given question.

Even when there was discussion in the way of informing you on the true state of affairs, regarding figures, the opposite was pointed out, that is the trend toward the decrease in the number of persons wishing to leave the USSR to reside permanently in other countries.

We consider it important that in view of the fundamental significance of this matter there should be no vagueness at all in relation to the Soviet Union's position.

[Signed] Gromyko, USSR foreign minister.

[Moscow TASS in English at 1725 GMT on 18 December carries an identical version of this letter]